COUNCIL OF
ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES

CONSEIL DES
UNIVERSITÉS DE L'ONTARIO

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

January 2009

This newsletter provides quick updates on issues of interest to members and affiliates of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU). This issue covers fall and winter 2008.

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Ontario universities present case to government

Universities offered creativity, collaboration and focused action to help government address the province's economic challenges. COU President Paul Genest and Carleton University President Roseann O'Reilly Runte presented COU's submission to the Ontario government's Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs on December 19, 2008, underscoring Ontario universities' commitment to work with government as strategic partners and applauding the significant public investment made to date.

In its pre-budget submission *The Right Balance: Navigating Present Needs and Future Opportunities,* COU proposes investment in quick-start campus renewal projects that will create jobs for people immediately in every region of the province; investment in large infrastructure projects that will provide medium-term stimulus, prepare for growth in the system and enhance energy-efficiency and environmental sustainability; and "bridge funding" to preserve jobs at our universities threatened by pressing operating and pension issues. For a copy of the COU brief, visit the COU website (www.cou.on.ca).

Former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien honoured with prestigious COU award

The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, a champion of research in Canada, was presented with the prestigious David C. Smith Award for Significant Contribution to Scholarship and Policy. Mr. Chrétien was honoured with the COU award for his vision, leadership and lifelong commitment to advancing not only research but also higher education in Canada. Under Mr. Chrétien's 10-year watch as Prime Minister of Canada, federal funding for research **quadrupled** – from approximately $500 million in 1994 to over $2.2 billion in 2003 – which helped to move research in Canada forward onto the world stage.

Mr. Chrétien created the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) in 1997 to provide funds to cover the costs of research infrastructure at universities, hospitals, research institutes and colleges. (Today, CFI has committed a total of close to $4 billion to fund research infrastructure across Canada, over $1.6 billion to Ontario universities.) One year later, he created the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation to provide bursaries, awards and scholarships to increase access to postsecondary education. He followed that up by establishing the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, which today supports over 10,000 researchers and staff each year; the Canada Research Chairs program, which invests $300 million a year to establish research chairs throughout Canada; and Genome Canada, a national organization with centres across the country that leverage public and private funding for genomics and proteomics research.

COU presented Mr. Chrétien with the award at a dinner held in Toronto on October 30, attended by some 140 guests representing the universities, government and business.

Chancellors champion university message to government and the public

University chancellors have been busy carrying the sector's message in recent months. They met with Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities John Milloy and Premier Dalton McGuinty on separate occasions, and at both events the chancellors articulated the contributions universities make to Ontario's economy and the need for continued investment.

In December, chancellors David Dodge (Queen's), Hon. David Peterson (Toronto), Dr. Hugette Labelle (Ottawa), John Thompson (Western) and Pamela Wallin (Guelph) participated in TVO's *The Agenda*. They used the forum to highlight the impact of universities. Hosted by Steve Paikin, the show aired in January 2009.

More recently, the Canadian Club has invited Mr. Dodge, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Thompson to participate on a panel of university chancellors at a luncheon to be held at Toronto's Royal York Hotel on February 9, 2009. The discussion will focus on the partnership between universities and businesses to generate economic solutions to these challenging times. COU anticipates that the luncheon will attract large numbers from both the university and business communities.

"University Day" at Queen's Park celebrates talent, innovation, eight new chairholders

The talent and innovation that Ontario universities contribute to the economic and social well-being of the province were the focus of a day-long series of meetings held by COU at Queen's Park. A luncheon reception that was the centerpiece of the November 6th "University Day" showcased the eight new Ontario Research Chairs in Public Policy to an audience of university representatives, Ministers, MPPs and civil servants. The Ontario Research Chairs program was endowed with $25 million from the provincial government. The eight chairholders will shape policy around key issues that impact society.

The following eminent scholars were selected in the government-sponsored program:

- Dr. Scott Davies, PhD Sociology – Chair in Educational Achievement and At Risk Students, McMaster University
- Dr. Udo Schüklenk, PhD Philosophy/Bioethics – Chair in Bioethics, Queen's University
- Dr. Anthony Culyer, PhD Economics – Chair in Health Policy and System Design, University of Toronto
- Dr. Andrew Emili, PhD Molecular Biology – Chair in Biomarkers in Disease Management, University of Toronto
- Dr. Glen Jones, PhD Higher Education – Chair in Postsecondary Education Policy and Measurement, University of Toronto
- Dr. Jatin Nathwani, PhD Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry – Chair in Public Policy for Sustainable Energy Management, University of Waterloo
- Dr. William Anderson, PhD Geography – Chair in Cross-Border Transportation, University of Windsor
- Dr. Douglas Cumming, PhD Economics and Finance – Chair in Economics and Cross-Cultural Studies, York University

The Chairs were chosen by an independent Selection Panel established by COU. The members of the Selection Panel are Dr. David Strangway (Chair), Judith Maxwell, Dr. Arthur May, Dr. Harold Shapiro and Harry Swain (Secretary).

Four new Executive Heads at Council in 2009

Laurentian University: DOMINIC GIROUX

A senior Ontario government official, Dominic Giroux, has been appointed the 10th President of Laurentian University. Mr. Giroux, who serves as Assistant Deputy Minister with both ministries of Education and of Training, Colleges and Universities, heads a team of 1,200 employees in 10 cities including Sudbury, Barrie, North Bay and Thunder Bay.

Mr. Giroux, who will take office on April 1, 2009, views Laurentian as a "growing graduate and research university, with tremendous potential to build on its bilingual and tricultural mandate" – a mandate for which he is aptly suited. He renewed the focus on collaboration and outcomes in the French-language K-12 and postsecondary sectors to improve student achievement and retention; championed the creation of the Aboriginal Education Office including the launch of a K-12 policy framework and securing new funding; and more recently successfully facilitated four-year provincial agreements between 22 unions and school boards' associations. He previously served as a senior executive in two French-language school boards in Southern and Eastern Ontario.

Former Ontario Executive Head installed at Concordia

Dr. Judith Woodsworth was installed as President and Vice-Chancellor of Concordia University on November 17, 2008. After leading Laurentian University as President for the past six years, Dr. Woodsworth returned to Concordia in August 2008. She began her academic career in Concordia's Département d'étude françaises in 1980 and has held various university administrative positions since then, including Vice-President (Academic) at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax for five years.

A member of the Ontario College of Teachers, he holds a BSocSc and a BEd from the University of Ottawa, and an MBA from the École des Hautes Études Commerciales in Montreal.

Mr. Giroux will succeed **Robert Bourgeois**, the University's Vice-President, Administration, who assumed the role of Acting President of Laurentian during the presidential search process. Prior to coming to Laurentian in 2007, Mr. Bourgeois held several senior positions in key federal departments and agencies including the Privy Council Office, Human Resources and Social Development and Industry Canada.

Nipissing University: LESLEY LOVETT-DOUST

Nipissing University has appointed Dr. Lesley Lovett-Doust, a prominent educator and administrator, as its fifth President. Dr. Lovett-Doust, who brings 30 years of experience in postsecondary education to Nipissing, is currently the Vice-President, Academic Affairs and Provost at Michigan Technological University.

Dr. Lovett-Doust is "committed to student satisfaction and excellence in teaching and learning" and has been actively engaged in issues of access and success for francophones, first generation and Aboriginal learners, as well as support for mature students – experience that will serve her well as Nipissing continues to grow.

Her career in academe began as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Western Ontario, and then as a Professor at the University of British Columbia and at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. In 1988, she joined the University of Windsor, where she held several positions including Associate Dean of Science and Associate Executive Dean of Engineering and Science. In 2005, she joined Lakehead University as Dean of the Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies. A native of Scotland, she earned her BSc from the University of Edinburgh and her PhD from the University of Wales.

Dr. Lovett-Doust will take office on July 1, 2009, succeeding **Dennis Mock**, who has served as President of Nipissing University for the past six years (including one year as Interim President). Dr. Mock's postsecondary career includes close to 30 years of dedicated service to Ryerson University, having served in several progressively senior administrative roles including Registrar; Vice-President, Academic; and Acting President.

Trent University: STEVEN FRANKLIN

Dr. Steven E. Franklin, an accomplished academic and senior administrator who is currently Vice-President Research at the University of Saskatchewan, has been appointed Trent University's next President and Vice-Chancellor.

Dr. Franklin, who is committed to building on the strong interdisciplinary traditions that have been the hallmark of Trent's academic programming, is equally passionate about "the need to be learner-centred, to provide students with opportunities to gain superior skills in communications and literacy, and problem-solving."

Dr. Franklin was a scholarship student at the Geophysical Institute of the University of Bergen in Norway, held an NSERC Post-Doctoral Fellowship, and taught at Memorial University of Newfoundland. He joined the University of Calgary in 1988 and later chaired the university's Geography Department. Subsequent appointments included Associate Dean (Research), Special Assistant to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic). In 2003, he joined the University of Saskatchewan in his current role. Dr. Franklin, who earned his MA and PhD at the University of Waterloo, is a Fellow of the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute.

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Dr. Franklin will take office on July 1, 2009, succeeding **Bonnie Patterson**, who has served as President of Trent and as Professor in the Business Administration Department since 1998. Prof. Patterson came to Trent after serving as President of COU. Before that, she held several senior academic positions, including Dean of the Faculty of Business and Special Assistant to the President of Ryerson University.

University of Western Ontario: AMIT CHAKMA

A distinguished chemical engineer and a strong university leader has been appointed the next President of the University of Western Ontario. Dr. Amit Chakma, Vice-President, Academic and Provost and Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Waterloo, will take office at Western on July 1, 2009.

Dr. Chakma praises Western's internationally recognized excellence in research and education, and hopes to build and expand on its strengths. "Successful universities of the next decades will be those which can build strong symbiotic linkages with their communities at the local, national and international levels. Our universities can be powerful catalysts for progress in our communities," says Dr. Chakma.

Prior to joining Waterloo in 2001, he served as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and then Vice-President (Research) at the University of Regina. Before that, he was a Professor of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering at the University of Calgary. Dr. Chakma is a graduate of the Algerian Petroleum Institute (Dip. Ing., 1982) and holds an MSc and PhD from the University of British Columbia.

Dr. Chakma will succeed **Paul Davenport**, who has served as Western's President for the last 15 years. Dr. Davenport's long-standing career in academe began at McGill University, where he held the positions of Professor of Economics, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Vice-Principal for Planning and Computer Services. From 1989 to 1994, he was President of the University of Alberta. He has also served as Chair of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and Chair of COU.

Algoma University, led by Celia Ross, becomes COU's newest member

On the heels of the passage of Ontario's legislation granting independent university status to Algoma University College in Sault Ste. Marie, COU approved a recommendation at its October meeting that Algoma University be admitted to COU as a full member, effective November 1, 2008. COU's website, membership lists and subsequent publications now reflect Algoma's membership. Ontario's 19th university will be represented by President Celia Ross and Dr. Bill Newbigging as Algoma's Senate-selected Academic Colleague.

Established in 1964, Algoma served as an undergraduate feeder college to Sudbury's Laurentian University. Dr. Ross accepted a teaching position to Algoma in 1982 after completing a doctorate in French Literature at l'Universite de Bordeaux III in France. Sixteen years and several positions later, she took office as president and began to broaden Algoma's focus to include developing local and international partnerships. The result: Algoma's dramatic transformation into a stand-alone regional university. Today Algoma offers more than 30 programs and has a special mandate to serve Aboriginal students, including offering the only BA program in the Ojibwe language.